

nip the nymph's legs as it passed! Next day my young companion found a specimen of the saucer bug, *Ilyocoris cimicoides*, while on the 12th of the month his friend Gary Mead netted a very sluggish water stick-insect, *Ranatra linearis*. Watching the pond-skaters (*Gerris* sp.) dashing hither and thither, and the *Gyrinus* whirligig beetles engaged in their characteristic circulatory motion, it was amusing to see a pond-skater leap over a whirligig when it happened to bar its progress! How sad it is that the pit in question is threatened with imminent in-filling by a local refuse contractor. At one time the whole area was something of a haven for the entomologist, with a wealth of dragonflies and numerous sallows which supported such moth species as puss and sallow kitten, herald, grey dagger, buff-tip and eyed-hawk. Nearly all is now gone, replaced by a foul-smelling wilderness. — ANTHONY WOOTTON, 40 Roundhill, Stone, Near Aylesbury, Bucks. HP17 8RD.

A NOTE FROM THE ISLE OF THANET. — The first *Cynthia cardui* L. I saw at Dumpton Gap on 7th August at about 7.50 a.m. when two were observed, since when I have frequently seen the butterfly at Dumpton, Ramsgate and today at Joss Bay. On the other hand, I have only seen one *Vanessa atalanta* L. all summer. I have a record of the dipteron *Volucella zonaria* Poda at Dumpton on 14th August. — M. R. LONGDON, 97, Dumpton Park Drive, Broadstairs, Kent, 7.ix.80.

THE *Cardui* INVASION. — 5th June 1980 — a sunny morning, but distant dark clouds and rumbles of thunder. I was working on my vegetables plot when, about 10.00 hrs. a remarkably fresh looking *V. cardui* settled on the bare earth a few yards away. When disturbed, it flew off, but it or another was sighted shortly afterwards on my valerian patch. Soon the threatened thunderstorm broke and rain continued for the rest of the day. This was the day on which 50 caravans were destroyed by a mini tornado at Nairn. 6th June — a sunny day with cloudless sky. The magnitude of the migration became evident, with *cardui* to be seen wherever there was something on which to feed — in particular, aubrietia, valerian and lilac. In the afternoon I had occasion to visit St. Andrews and there *cardui* was in abundance in the gardens. The main attraction seemed to be lilac. 7th June — back in Crieff, I visited the local *A. euphrosyne* colony. In this very early season *euphrosyne* was no longer in evidence, but its place on the bugle patches was taken over by *cardui*.

A short survey in Argyll and West Inverness-shire on 11th/12th June showed the presence of *cardui* to be widespread. Isolated specimens were encountered in Easdale (O.S. 17/71), Glen Lonan (17/92) and Appin (17/94). At Loch Arkaig (27/09, 18, 19) however, *cardui* was again abundant, feeding on Common Catsear and early Bramble blossom along miles of roadside verges. In 55 years I have seen nothing like this migration. — J. R. MILLER, Sealladh-Mhor, Crieff, Perthshire.